



## **spottail shiner**

*Notropis hudsonius*

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Family:	Cypriniformes
Order:	Cyprinidae

### **Features**

The spottail shiner is flattened side to side and moderately robust. Its name comes from a large prominent spot at the base of the tail fin. It is very pale olive above with silvery sides and belly. The mouth is below the end of the snout (sub-terminal). Adults grow to three or four inches long.

### **Natural History**

The spottail shiner is the “big water” member of the minnow family, being most abundant in the natural lakes. It also has been found in Woodbury County and Lake Manawa in the Missouri River drainage and has been introduced into the Rathbun Reservoir. It eats aquatic insects, zooplankton (microscopic animals), and some plant material. It spawns over gravel in creeks or along sandy shores in May and June.

### **Habitats**

natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; interior rivers and streams

### **Iowa Status**

common; native

### **Iowa Range**

northeast Iowa and Dickinson, Cerro Gordo, Woodbury, Appanoose, and Pottawattamie Counties

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.